

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

In the Claims

- 1-8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having:
 - (a) a molecular weight of about 55 kDa;
 - (b) functional activity as a serine protease inhibitor or a divalent cation binding agent;
and
 - (c) an amino acid sequence comprising one or more of the following:
 - i) SEQ ID NO:1;
 - ii) SEQ ID NO:2;
 - iii) SEQ ID NO:3;
 - iv) SEQ ID NO:4; or
 - v) SEQ ID NO:5.
10. (Previously amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide with the function of a serine protease inhibitor or a divalent cation binding agent, selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 or a functionally equivalent variant of the polypeptide;
 - (b) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6;
 - (c) a polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions with one of the polynucleotides mentioned under (a) or (b) or is complementary thereto; and
 - (d) a polynucleotide whose nucleotide sequence deviates from the sequence of the polynucleotide mentioned under (a), (b) or (c) owing to the degeneracy of the genetic code.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Previously amended) A vector comprising the polynucleotide as claimed in any of claims 9, 10 or 2.
13. (Previously amended) A host cell which expresses a polynucleotide as claimed in any of claims 9, 10 or 25.

14-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that is obtainable from the haemolymph of ~~Perna canaliculus~~ *Perna canaliculus*, has an apparent molecular weight of 75 kDa as determined by PAGE, and has functional activity as a serine protease inhibitor or a divalent cation binding agent.